

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
DISTRICT OF VERMONT**

In Re: Application for Exemption from the Electronic Public Access Fees by Alexander Zentefis

ORDER GRANTING PACER FEE WAIVER

On August 1, 2024, Alexander Zentefis, researcher associated with an educational institution, filed a request for a local PACER fee exemption extension for one (1) year to access sentencing hearings in criminal cases to study linguistic patterns.

Consistent with the policy established by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the court may, upon a showing of cause, grant a PACER fee exemption to individual researchers associated with an educational institution. The individuals requesting the exemption must establish that the exemption is necessary to avoid an unreasonable burden and to promote public access to the information sought.

Subject to the restrictions listed below, I find that Mr. Zentefis has shown cause to justify the requested PACER fee exemption and that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid an unreasonable burden and to promote public access of this district's case information.

Accordingly, Mr. Zentefis shall be exempt from the payment of fees for access via PACER to the electronic case files maintained in this court. Mr. Zentefis shall not be exempt from the payment of fees incurred in connection with other uses of the PACER system in this court. Additionally, the following limitations apply:

1. This fee exemption applies only to Mr. Zentefis and is valid for the purposes stated above;
2. This fee exemption applies only to the electronic case files of this court that are available through the PACER system;
3. By accepting this exemption, Mr. Plante agrees not to (a) sell for profit any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption, or (b) transfer any data or documents obtained as a result of a fee exemption unless expressly authorized by the court; and
4. This exemption shall be valid from this date through July 31, 2025, when it will expire unless extended upon request for good cause shown.

This exemption may be revoked at the discretion of the court at any time. A copy of this order shall be sent to the PACER Service Center.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Burlington, in the District of Vermont, this 22nd day of August, 2024.

/s/ Geoffrey W. Crawford
Judge, U. S. District Court

**Application for Multi-Court Exemption from the
Judicial Conference's Electronic Public Access (EPA) Fees**

1.) I am requesting an exemption from fees for public access to electronic case records for the courts selected below:

Courts of Appeal

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Courts of Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> Seventh Circuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Circuit | <input type="checkbox"/> Eighth Circuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Second Circuit | <input type="checkbox"/> Ninth Circuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Third Circuit | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenth Circuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth Circuit | <input type="checkbox"/> Eleventh Circuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fifth Circuit | <input type="checkbox"/> D.C. Circuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sixth Circuit | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Circuit |

Bankruptcy Appellate Panels (BAP)

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Circuit - BAP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sixth Circuit - BAP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eighth Circuit - BAP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ninth Circuit - BAP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tenth Circuit - BAP |

District Courts

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All District Courts | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alabama Middle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Central | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nevada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Carolina |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alabama Southern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Dakota |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alaska | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indiana Northern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Eastern |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arizona | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indiana Southern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Mexico | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Middle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Eastern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iowa Northern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York Eastern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Western |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa Southern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York Northern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Texas Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Central | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kansas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York Southern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Texas Northern |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Eastern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Western | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Texas Southern |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Northern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Western | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North Carolina Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Western |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Southern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Eastern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North Carolina Middle | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colorado | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Middle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North Carolina Western | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vermont |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connecticut | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Western | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North Dakota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virgin Islands |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delaware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Mariana Islands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virginia Eastern |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District of Columbia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio Northern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virginia Western |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Middle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ohio Southern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Eastern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Western |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Southern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan Western | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma Northern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West Virginia Northern |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Georgia Northern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma Western | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West Virginia Southern |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Georgia Middle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mississippi Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin Eastern |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Georgia Southern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mississippi Southern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Eastern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin Western |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guam | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Missouri Eastern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Middle | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Western | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Idaho | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rico | |

Bankruptcy Courts

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Bankruptcy Courts | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama Middle | <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Central | <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Middle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Western |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Central | <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Northern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Southern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Western | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Western |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina Middle | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Middle | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Vermont |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Western | <input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> Virgin Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mariana Islands | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Western |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Middle | <input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Western |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia Northern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma Western | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia Southern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Middle | <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin Western |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guam | <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri Eastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Middle | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii | <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Western | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Idaho | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rico | |

National Courts

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Panel on
Multidistrict Litigation | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Court of
Federal Claims | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Court of
International Trade |
|--|--|---|

2.) I am an individual associated with Yale University

3.) Please summarize why the case information from the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) service is needed and how it will be used. Also, please explain why an exemption from the courts identified is necessary. If you need more space, please provide in an attachment.

Time extension of fee exemption is kindly requested for a research project studying linguistic patterns in federal criminal sentencing. I recently realized that not all the documents required for the project from the above courts were downloaded successfully, and more time is requested for the fee exemption. The request is limited in scope because the only documents required to meet the needs of the research project are docket reports, sentencing memoranda, and sentencing transcripts from the previous year only. The documents would be analyzed using natural language processing methods. Success of the research hinges on a corpus of text, which would be unreasonably costly to obtain if each document required payment. The documents accessed will not be redistributed on the Internet or used for commercial purposes. The expected outcomes of the research project are several publicly available, scholarly research papers of the analysis.

4.) In support of this application, I affirm the following:

- a) An exemption from the Judicial Conference's EPA Fee is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information.
- b) That the exemption will be for a definitive period of time:
- c) I understand that this fee exemption will apply only to me, will be valid only for the purposes stated above, and will apply only to the electronic case files of the court(s) indicated above that are available through the PACER service.
- d) I agree that any data received through this exemption will not be sold for profit, will not be transferred, will not be used for commercial purposes, and will not be redistributed via the Internet.

Declaration: I declare that all the above information is true and understand that a false statement ☒ may result in termination of my exempt access and an assessment of Electronic Public Access usage fees. (The box must be marked or your request will not be considered)

Applicant's Printed Name

Applicant's Title

 Digitally signed by Alexander K Zentefis
Date: 2024.08.01 11:20:54 -04'00'

Applicant's Signature

Applicant's Phone Number

Applicant's email address

Applicant's Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Date

Please submit your completed, signed request via email to Multi-CourtExemptions@ao.uscourts.gov or by mail to:

Attention: Multi-Court Exemptions
Court Programs Division
DPS-CSO-PRGD
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Washington, DC 20544

**** Requests sent through the US mail may take up to two weeks to clear security.****

Supplemental Information

Name: Alexander Zentefis

PACER ID: 7548092

- I am requesting a time extension of my existing fee waiver from 73 district courts for a research project studying linguistic patterns in federal criminal sentencing. I plan to apply methods from computational linguistics—such as sentiment analysis and topic modeling—to the document texts to process and interpret the language used at sentencing at scale and convert it into structured data for analysis. Computer programs will be written to implement the methods from computational linguistics.
- I recently realized that not all the documents required for the project from these courts were downloaded successfully, and more time is requested for the fee exemption. I'm requesting more time for the fee waiver from these remaining 73 courts so that I can finish successfully downloading the docket reports, sentencing memoranda, and sentencing transcripts for the research project.
- The types of documents that will be reviewed are docket reports, sentencing memoranda, and sentencing transcripts.
- The exact number of documents is unknown, but the number of cases per court from the remaining 73 courts follows below. They are from the FJC IDB database for cases from the previous year, as that time period is the research project's defined narrow scope.
- Only criminal cases are pertinent to the research project, and I'm only requesting time-extended fee waivers from the 73 remaining district courts listed above. No fee waivers from circuit courts or bankruptcy courts are requested.

Court Code	No of cases
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akd	235
almd	284
alsd	384
ared	834
arwd	328
azd	6660
caed	596
cand	608
cod	549
ctd	422
dcd	582
ded	134
gamd	555
gand	851
gasd	529
gud	40
hid	205
iand	528
idd	484

ilnd	908
ilsd	372
innd	495
insd	623
ksd	572
kyed	590
kywd	660
laed	455
lamd	168
lawd	451
mad	565
mdd	1580
med	273
miwd	354
mnd	489
moed	1643
msnd	230
mssd	549
mtd	541
nced	1934
ncmd	548
ncwd	779
ndd	442
njd	1207
nmd	2951
nmid	29
nvd	565
nyed	1000
nynd	667
nysd	1286
ohsd	770
oked	299
oknd	759
okwd	912
paed	731
pamd	704
prd	983
rid	174
scd	699
sdd	896
tnmd	546
tnwd	637
txed	1000
txnd	1980
txsd	9682

vaed	1528
vawd	298
vid	99
vtd	232
waed	460
wied	403
wiwd	221
wvnd	381
wvsd	412